THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The Bullytin

Winter 2011

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641 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14202 716 884 0095 www.trsite.org

TR Site Adds New Exhibits

We're not done yet! The TR Site continues to create exciting new exhibits for our visitors, including two that have recently been installed. In the re-creation of Theodore Roosevelt's presidential office, an interactive globe uses political cartoons to investigate the extent of TR's foreign policy and its worldwide impact. Resembling the oversized globe that stood in TR's White House office, this globe has touchscreen computers that President Roosevelt couldn't have imagined! As the viewer investigates TR's far-reaching impact, foreign policy summaries are highlighted by political cartoons from the period, including several full-color images



This new globe features interactive screens to explore TR's global impact.

from Judge and Puck magazines. The President's Office is also receiving some additional furnishings to better create the look and feel of TR's time.

The Exploration Room has begun to take shape as well, with the introduction of a computer kiosk providing visitors with a "read more about it" opportunity for further discovery of TR's life, McKinley's assassination, and the history of the TR Site. As well as factual details not provided in the tour, the kiosk also offers a wealth of historic images, photos of artifacts not on display, film clips, and even audio of TR's voice. A "Frequently Asked Questions" section provides answers to those inquiries made most often by our visitors. According to the Site's

Chief of Interpretation Mark Lozo, "This really is a chance for visitors to delve deeper into what interests them. It's been great to see that some people spend an hour or more at the kiosk. For some visitors, no tour is ever enough to satisfy their curiosity." An additional feature challenges visitors to test their knowledge in a TR trivia quiz. Also underway for the Exploration Room is the creation of a children's corner.

These new interactive exhibits were installed in November 2010 and are just the latest additions in our ongoing efforts to create an engaging, state-of-the-art museum experience. Come in and explore!



The screen on the new interactive computer kiosk is <u>bursting</u> with options for curious visitors.

Message from the President and Executive Director

Marking the Site's 40th Anniversary!

This year, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site is commemorating the IIOth anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration in the Wilcox home, as well as the 40th anniversary of the TR Site's opening. We have many reasons to be proud – first, for our community's success in saving this landmark from demolition in the I960s and second, for the ongoing efforts of trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters in keeping the TR Site a vibrant, engaging asset both for our community and for the nation. Programs and events throughout the year will help mark this special anniversary.

As we begin a new year, many important initiatives are underway. The creation of a new five-year strategic plan, which was begun last spring, is nearing completion. Input from trustees, staff and volunteers has been instrumental in creating the plan and their commitment will be crucial as the plan is executed over the next several years. Our thanks to the Strategic Plan Committee Co-Chairs Willow Brost and Kevin Klotzbach and their committee members — Mark DePalma, Stanton Hudson and Karen Gaughan Scott.

With the assistance of a 2010 federal grant from Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, the final two rooms in the Site's education initiative, "Transforming the Visitor Experience," will be complete this winter. Already well underway with new interactive exhibits in place, final furnishings will soon be installed in both the President's Office and the Exploration Room. These spaces are coming to life and offering further opportunities for hands-on discovery, discussion and engagement.

Evaluation of all aspects of the new visitor experience will begin this winter through visitor interviews, comment cards, focus groups and an on-line survey. The information gathered will help us learn more about our audience and continue to improve and fine tune Site tours, programs, website and amenities.

We look forward to seeing you at the Site over the next few months.

LAWRENCE D. SEYMOUR

PRESIDENT

THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE FOUNDATION

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"Abraham Lincoln" Visits Buffalo

National Park Service's "Civil War to Civil Rights" Program

Join us for the beginning of the American Civil War Sesquicentennial observance with a visit from "Abraham Lincoln" exactly 150 years to the day after his 1861 visit to Buffalo. This special visit by nationally renowned Lincoln actor Fritz Klein will take place on:

Thursday, February 17 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Avenue (at West Ferry St.)
The presentation is free and open to the public.

The event, which is part of the National Park Service's "Civil War to Civil Rights" program, commemorates the 150th anniversary of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's inaugural journey from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, D.C. by revisiting sixteen cities and towns where Lincoln made remarks. Mr. Klein will present what Lincoln said in each community as he tried to reassure a nation on the verge of civil war.

The program will include National Park Service Rangers who will supplement Lincoln's remarks with the story

of Lincoln's election, the turbulence that followed, and Lincoln's steadfast commitment to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, despite threats to the nation and himself. The program will also touch on how events of I50 years ago resonated through later generations up to and including today. Civil War era music will be generously provided by the Hutchinson Family Revival.

During his 1861 visit, President-elect Lincoln attended Sunday worship services with former President Millard Fillmore at the First Unitarian Church, located at Franklin and Eagle Streets. The current Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo is the same congregation, having moved to its current location in 1904.

The program is presented in Buffalo by the National Park Service and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site. It is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo and the Forest Lawn Heritage Education Center, with assistance from the Hutchinson Family Revival, 155th NY Infantry Re-enactor Regiment and Echoes Through Time History Center.

WNY Land Conservancy Speakers Series



The TR Site is pleased to be co-hosting the Western New York Land Conservancy's Winter/Spring Speakers Series with all lectures taking place here at the Site. The Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. Theodore Roosevelt's leadership in area of conservation is one of the issues that the Site's new tour experience explores. How does this issue continue to be addressed today? Please join us to find out what is happening in our own community. The lectures are free and open to the public; however, please RSVP to the Conservancy at (716) 687-1225.

Monday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. Margaret Wooster Habitat Planner, Riverkeepers

Author of Living Waters: Reading the Rivers of the Lower Great Lakes and Somewhere to Go on Sunday, a guidebook to the "natural treasures" of the binational Niagara bio-region, Ms. Wooster will be speaking about the importance and value of the watershed surrounding Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, and how we, as ordinary citizens, can help ensure that our watersheds are protected for generations to come.

Monday, April 11, 5:30 p.m.

Stan Radon

Geologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Popular for his gripping tours of local rock formations, Mr. Radon will be speaking about time, climate, and the evolution of the geology and landscape of Western New York. He has been a geologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the past 20 years and teaches geology and environmental sciences at SUNY at Buffalo and Daemen College.

Monday, May 2, 5:30 p.m. Paul Fuhrmann

Ecology & Environment and the NYS Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Mr. Fuhrmann will be speaking about our regional environment as it has been impacted by invasive species and how we, as ordinary citizens, can protect and preserve our native habitats despite the impacts of invasive species on our natural landscape, to the detriment of our native birds, wildflowers, and wild life. He brings 20 plus years of environmentally friendly landscaping experience with a specialty in native plant communities.

Victorian Christmas

Another year, another wonderful success story! Congratulations to everyone who helped make Victorian Christmas 2010 such a fantastic holiday event. Every inch of the Site was filled with the sights, sounds and feelings of an oldfashioned Christmas and, as always, the perfect way to begin the festive season was to visit the TR Site. Special kudos to the Victorian Christmas committee, led by chairs Diane Elmer and Mary Ellen Glynn, for the many hours of careful planning and special teamwork that made this such a stellar event. We also send sincere thanks to the Eighth District

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State for their long-term dedication and generous support of Victorian Christmas. Finally, to the TR Site staff and all the volunteers, the biggest thank you of all! Your hard work and enthusiasm helped make 2010 another banner year. That warm, welcoming atmosphere that you create left our visitors with happy memories and a bit of the true spirit of Christmas. Congratulations to one and all for a superb job! (Additional photo on back cover.)

Victorian Christmas was a true gourmet experience this year. Many thanks to the culinary experts who made it happen...

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A good time was had by all including the hard working kitchen team!

Jane Kearns, Gerry Casey, Peggy Damico, Donna Hughes and Keith Krummel

were among the many who made Victorian Christmas possible.



Trustee Patti Hain and daughter Barbara Link toast the holiday season at the Site.

Buffalo to Host Statewide Museum Conference

TR Site staff members are looking forward to being a part of the 2011 Museums in Conversation conference, which will be held in Buffalo at the beginning of April. The annual conference is jointly sponsored by Museumwise and the Museum Association of New York. Attendees will include museum staff members, volunteers and trustees, as well as museum

studies students from all over New York State and beyond. The TR Site will be hosting a pre-conference workshop focusing on the new tour, and Curator Lenora Henson will be part of a panel discussion addressing museum internship programs. For more information, contact Lenora or visit: http://museumsinconversation.org/

Rarely Seen Artifacts Take Center Stage

Like many museums locally and around the world, much of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site's artifact collection spends a lot of its time behind closed doors—safely tucked away in acid-free boxes so that it will be available for future generations. But, what about *current* generations? Well, they're getting their chance to see these reclusive objects now—through a series of special theme-based "Behind-the-Scenes" tours led by TR Site Curator Lenora Henson.

The tours allow participants the rare opportunity to visit the collections storage area and get an "up close" look at some of the TR Site's most unique and interesting artifacts. Lenora is especially looking forward to sharing anecdotes and stories about the various objects. The "Behind-the-Scenes" tour schedule is as follows:

Saturday, March 5th - 1:30 p.m.

Buffalo's Pan-American Exposition: Souvenirs & Stories *Reservations beginning Monday, February 7th

Wednesday, May IIth - 5:30 p.m. Theodore Roosevelt: Tales & Treasures *Reservations beginning Monday, April 11th

Tuesday, July 19th - 5:30 p.m.

Buffalo's Pan-American Exposition: Souvenirs & Stories *Reservations beginning Monday, June 13th

Saturday, September 10th - 10:30 a.m. The Wilcox Family: In Their Own Words *Reservations beginning Monday, August 8th

Friday, November 4th - I:30 p.m. Theodore Roosevelt: Tales & Treasures *Reservations beginning Monday, October 3rd

Each tour is limited to ten people and will last approximately $I^{1/2}$ hours. Pre-paid reservations are required and can be made by calling (716) 884-0095. Tickets cost \$15 for TR Site members, or \$25 for non-members; proceeds will benefit collections care projects at the TR Site. Additionally, all participants will receive a coupon entitling them to a "standard" guided tour of the TR Site (\$10 value).



The pleasure of your company is requested...

Mother-Daughter Tea

~

Saturday & Sunday ~ April 30th & May 1st, 2011 11:30 am & 1:30 pm Adults \$25 ~ Children (10 & under) \$15

For family and friends...

An afternoon filled with the special ambiance of a bygone era. Enjoy fragrant spring blossoms, sweet & savory treats, vintage fashions, and more...

Call for reservations beginning March 1, 2011 (716) 884-0095

www.trsite.org

Remembering Site Trustees and Volunteers

Last year, several of the Site's most dedicated friends passed away.

Former TR Site Foundation board president and trustee emeritus **Dr. J. Warren Perry** was recognized throughout the Western New York community for his leadership and philanthropy. In 1997, Dr. Perry received the TR Site Foundation's prestigious Exemplary Citizenship Award in recognition of his many contributions. In addition to Dr. Perry's leadership and wise counsel over many years, the Site is most fortunate to have received donations from Dr. Perry that include his Pan-American Exposition and Old Buffalo Collections. His memory lives on here at the Site as we continue to highlight these artifacts in ongoing exhibits.

Dr. J. David Valaik's expertise in both Theodore Roosevelt and American history was enthusiastically shared with the Site. A well loved and respected professor at Canisius College, Dr. Valaik served as a Site trustee and then as trustee emeritus. He contributed in so many ways, but may best be remembered for authoring the book *Theodore Roosevelt, An American Hero in Caricature,* as well as helping to coordinate and presenting papers at two national TR symposiums held in Buffalo in 1985 and 2002. Dr. Valaik received the TR Site Foundation's President's Award in 1992.

Virginia Hill Inman was one of the Site's earliest volunteers, offering her expertise as an interior decorator in the restoration of the Wilcox Mansion in the late 1960s. Her energy and enthusiasm affected all phases of the Site's operation as she continued her involvement as a volunteer, trustee and trustee emeritus. She received the TR Site Foundation's President's Award in 1997. Most recently in 2009, at the age of 94, Virginia oversaw the selection of finishes and furnishings for the Site's new Exploration Room. Her presence lives on in so many ways.

Carol Wagner was a chairwoman of the Junior League Wilcox Committee, which was instrumental in the restoration of the Wilcox Mansion in the late 1960s, and her commitment to the Site continued for the rest of her life. From her extensive research into the Wilcox family genealogy, to her participation on numerous committees, and her recent leadership with the capital campaign for the carriage house, Carol's contributions have always made a difference. In 2007, she was honored with the TR Site Foundation's President's Award.

Barbara Becker was a volunteer extraordinaire. She made her mark as a docent and as a leader of the Site's annual Victorian Christmas event, serving as co-chair in 2002. Barb epitomized the qualities of an exceptional volunteer, always professional, prepared and willing to assist where and when needed. She also was a good friend to staff and volunteers alike. Barb received the Barbara Berryman Brandt Volunteer Award in 2003.



At the 2010 Anniversary & Awards Dinner, the TR Site Foundation was pleased to present the Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award to New York State Trooper John M. Spero and the Theodore Roosevelt Exemplary Citizenship Award to Donald A. Ogilvie, District Superintendent of Erie I BOCES.



Heartiest congratulations to former TR Site Executive Director, Barbara Berryman Brandt, 2010 recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Association's (TRA) Rose Award. This prestigious award is given in memory of Mrs. Reginald P. Rose who served on the Executive Committee of the TRA from 1956 to 1982. Mrs. Rose was instrumental in the preservation of Sagamore Hill, and her dedication, energetic leadership, and hard work represent the highest tradition of service to the TRA. Barbara Brandt is the immediate past president of the TRA.

Barbara Brandt and her husband Roger were delighted to share the special celebration with daughter, Debbie Guckes.



In July 2010, the Site was honored to welcome Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, along with representatives from the New York Council for the Humanities (NYCH) during Chairman Leach's nationwide "Civility Tour." Left to right are: Adam Perry, NYCH Board; Lawrence D. Seymour, TR Site Foundation President; Jim Leach; Molly Quackenbush, TR Site Executive Director; Sara Ogger, NYCH Executive Director; and Joan Shelley Rubin, NYCH Board.

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Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

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Members of Boy Scout Troop 431 have delighted Victorian Christmas dinner guests with exceptional service for many years. (Article on page 4.)

